

NEWS RELEASE



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
VIRGINIA FIELD OFFICE

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Number 20

Released: November 9, 2006

VIRGINIA'S SOYBEAN AND COTTON YIELDS UNCHANGED FROM THE PREVIOUS FORECAST

Virginia's November forecast for soybean yield is estimated at 31 bushels per acre, unchanged from the previous forecast. Virginia soybean producers are expected to harvest 500,000 acres, down 10,000 acres from last year. Production is forecast at 15.5 million bushels, up from last year.

The state's peanut yield is forecast at 3,100 pounds per acre. This was up 150 pounds from the previous forecast. Production is estimated at 49.6 million pounds, down 25 percent from last year. Producers are expected to harvest 16,000 acres in 2006.

Cotton yields are forecast at 822 pounds per acre, unchanged from last month but down 133 pounds from last year. Production is expected to total 178,000 bales. Cotton growers in the Commonwealth expect to harvest 104,000 acres in 2006.

Virginia's corn producers averaged 123 bushels per acre, down 2 bushels from the October forecast but up 5 bushels from last year. Corn for grain production is expected to total 42.4 million bushels from 345,000 acres.

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Cooperating with Virginia Department of Agriculture
and Consumer Services

**Corn Production Down 1 Percent from October
Soybean Production Up Slightly from October
Cotton Production Up 3 Percent from October**

All U.S. Corn production is forecast at 10.7 billion bushels, down 1 percent from October and 3 percent lower than 2005. Based on conditions as of November 1, yields are expected to average 151.2 bushels per acre, down 2.3 bushels from October but 3.3 bushels higher than last year. If realized, the yield would be the second largest on record, behind 2004. Yield forecasts are lower than last month across much of the western and central Corn Belt and Atlantic Coast States as producers reported that actual harvest yields were not as good as expected earlier due to lower grain weight per ear. Stalk quality and lodging problems were also reported in some areas. Producers in the northern Great Plains, Delta States, and parts of the Southeast reported better than expected yields. Compared with last year, yields are higher in all Corn Belt States, except Iowa and Minnesota.

All U.S. Soybean production is forecast at 3.20 billion bushels, up slightly from October and 5 percent above 2005. If realized, this would be the largest U.S. soybean crop on record. Based on November 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 43.0 bushels per acre, up 0.2 bushel from October and equal to last year's record high yield. Producers in the northern Great Lakes States, Delaware, New York, North Carolina, and the Dakotas are realizing higher yields than expected last month, while yield prospects decreased slightly as harvest progressed in Illinois, Kentucky, Missouri, and Pennsylvania. Area for harvest in the U.S. is forecast at 74.5 million acres, unchanged from last month but up 5 percent from 2005.

All U.S. Cotton production is forecast at 21.3 million 480-pound bales, up 3 percent from last month but down 11 percent from last year's record high production. Yield is expected to average 798 pounds per acre, up 24 pounds from last month but down 33 pounds from last year. The harvested area is expected to total 12.8 million acres, unchanged from last month but down 7 percent from 2005. Growers in Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, and Texas are expecting better yields due to the favorable weather conditions received in the later part of the growing season. In Arkansas, a record high production is expected.

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